

OKC Fall Navigator Conference

Fellowship

9.15.12

As one of the spokes of the Navigator Wheel, fellowship is an important part of every disciple's understanding of the Christian life. This workshop will explore what biblical fellowship is, what it isn't, and how we can pursue it with each other.

Hebrew

Qahal - assembly, the main word used for the Hebrew spiritual gatherings

Evidenced in relationships between David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 20) and family discipleship relationships (Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 78)

The overall concept is weakly developed in the Old Testament. Why?

- Implied tribalism of Old Testament people groups?
- Spiritual ramifications of the Old Covenant?
 - God chose to reveal Himself directly to His covenant people
 - God chose to reveal Himself to His covenant people through His prophets
 - God chose to reveal Himself to His covenant people through His law
- The lack of the indwelling Holy Spirit in God's covenant people?

Greek

Ekklesia – a compound word: ek (out of) and klesis (a calling), originally a civic word used to describe a gathering for any definitive purpose, Christians co-opted it's use in two aspects:

1. The universal Church – Matthew 16:18
2. The local church – Matthew 18:17

Hebrews 2:12, "congregation" also in Acts 13:43 where the word is *synagoge*

Oikos – a word with broad meaning in the New Testament, used to describe a home, the Tabernacle, the members of a house, and a local church (1 Timothy 3:15)

Oikeios – adjective form, signifies belonging to a house, such as the 'household of God' in Ephesians 2:19, or Galatians 6:10

Koinonia – derived from a word describing a group of retired Roman soldiers living together in a colony, i.e. Philippi) – communion, fellowship, sharing in common: 1 Corinthians 10:16, Philemon 6, Romans 15:26, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Ephesians 3:9

Koinonos – partner with: 1 Corinthians 10:10

Metochē – partnership: 2 Corinthians 6:14, Psalms 122:3 (more restricted sense than *koinonia*), Hebrews 2:14

Synagoge – bringing together (the New Testament assembly of the Jews)

Verbs

Koinoneo – to have fellowship: Philippians 4:15

Sunkoinoneo – to have fellowship with (or in): Ephesians 5:11, Philippians 4:14, Revelation 18:4

New Testament examples

1. Started at Pentecost in Acts 2
 - a. Acts 2:42-47
 - b. Acts 4:32-37
 - c. Acts 9
 - d. Acts 9:27
 - e. Acts 11:22-26
 - f. Acts 13
 - g. Acts 13:13
 - h. Acts 14
 - i. Acts 15
2. Partnership to advance the work of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 8:4)
3. Described as a 'heavenly love' – agapeo (John 13:34, 1 Thessalonians 3:12, 1 Corinthians 16:14, 2 Peter 1:7) – for one another (the 'One Anothers') and for God – predicated on our fellowship with God through Christ and the indwelling relationship with the Holy Spirit
 - This love is deeper and more satisfying than any other human love relationships on the planet, whether social, parental, marital, or other
 - If you are incredulous, you haven't experienced it . . . many imitators passing themselves off as *koinonia* today
 - That is the driving force of effective evangelism
 - That is the power of true discipleship
 - That is the encouragement for persevering in the Christian life over the long haul

Rightly relating to Christ personally, then to others. What clues can we glean from New Testament culture that aided in their *koinonia*? Are their principles that transfer historically and cross-culturally that would aid in our pursuit of *koinonia* today?

It isn't hanging out. It isn't on our terms.

Interdependence. Mutual vulnerability. Project Impact. Generational expressions . . . multi-housing communities . . . American Christianity versus communities of faith abroad.

Do we see our need for it, and what price are we willing to pay to acquire it?

The “One Others” of the New Testament

Listed below are the “One Another’s” of the New Testament. What if your small group worked to live these out during the next 8 weeks? What if this was what you prayed for Christ to do in your life through His power? Next week, read through these verses privately. Underline the ones you think you need the most from your small group. Circle the ones you think you will find most difficult to give to your small group. Have each person share one verse they circled and one they underlined and share why they chose those. Spend some time praying together using these verses as your prayer.

The Gospels

1. “...Be at peace with each other” (Mark 9:50)
2. “...Wash one another’s feet” (John 13:14)
3. “...Love one another...” (John 13:34-35; John 15:12, 17)

Paul’s Letters

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians

4. “Love one another”(Romans 13:8)
5. “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...” (Romans 12:10)
6. “Honor one another above yourselves” (Romans 12:10)
7. “Live in harmony with one another...” (Romans 12:16)
8. “...Stop passing judgment on one another” (Romans 14:13)
9. “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)
10. “...instruct one another” (Romans 15:4)
11. “Greet one another with a holy kiss...” (Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:26)
12. “...When you come together to eat, wait for each other” (1 Corinthians 11:33)
13. “...Have equal concern for each other” (1 Corinthians 12:25)
14. “...Serve one another in love” (2 Corinthians 13:12)

Galatians, Ephesians

15. “Carry each other’s burdens...” (Galatians 6:2)
16. “If you keep on biting and devouring each other...you will be destroyed by each other” (Galatians 5:15)
17. “Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other” (Galatians 5:26)
18. “...Be patient, bearing with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:2)
19. “Be kind and compassionate to one another...” (Ephesians 4:32)
20. “...forgiving each other...” (Ephesians 4:32)
21. “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19)
22. “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21)

Philippians, Colossians

23. “...in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3)
24. “Do not lie to each other...” (Colossians 3:9)
25. “Bear with each other...” (Colossians 3:13)
26. “...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another” (Colossians 3:13)
27. “Teach...[one another]” (Colossians 3:16)
28. “...admonish one another” (Colossians 3:16)

1 Thessalonians, Hebrews

29. "...make your love increase and overflow for each other" (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
30. "Encourage one another" (1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 10:25)
31. "...Build each other up..." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
32. "Encourage one another daily..." (Hebrews 3:13)
33. "Spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:24)

Other Letters

James, 1 Peter, 1 John, 2 John

34. "...Do not slander one another" (James 4:11)
35. "Don't grumble against each other" (James 5:9)
36. "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)
37. "...Pray for each other" (James 5:16)
38. "...Love one another deeply, from the heart" (1 Peter 1:22, 4:8)
39. "...Live in harmony with one another..." (1 Peter 3:8)
40. "Greet one another with a kiss of love" (1 Peter 5:14)
41. "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling" (1 Peter 4:9)
42. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." (1 Peter 4:10)
43. "...Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another..." (1 Peter 5:15)
44. "Love one another" (1 John 3:11, 23, 4:7,11,12; 2 John 5)

Sources Used

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